

**REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

**I. General Remarks**

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-12, 15-19, 21, 22, and 23 were pending. Claims 1 and 8 are amended herein, and claims 15-19 and 21 have been cancelled.

Applicants thank Examiner for the careful consideration of the Application, and Applicants acknowledge Examiner's designation of claims 1-12, 22, and 23 as being drawn to allowable subject matter.

**II. Remarks Regarding Claim Objections**

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to address the informalities noted by Examiner.

**III. Remarks Regarding Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)**

Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,439,310 issued to Scott, III *et al.* These claims have been cancelled and are therefore no longer relevant to this rejection.

**IV. Remarks Regarding Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 15-19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,360,558 issued to Pkulski *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,541,935 issued to Constien *et al.* These claims have been cancelled and are therefore no longer relevant to this rejection.

**SUMMARY**

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections. Applicants further submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicit timely notice of the same. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the attorney of record by telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail.

Applicants believe that no additional fees are due in association with the filing of this Response. Should the Commissioner, however, deem that any fees are due, including any fees for extensions of time, the Commissioner is authorized to debit the Deposit Account of Halliburton Energy Services, Inc., No. 08-0300, for any underpayment of fees that may be due in association with this filing.

Respectfully submitted,



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